

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DLOS-04 OES-03 EB-07 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 /081 W

----- 039045

R 291915Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6525

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, BL, PBOR

SUBJECT: BANZER INTERVIEW ON BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO SEA

REF: LA PAZ 6666

1. REFTEL ACCURATELY SUMMARIZES MAJOR POINTS ON OUTLET TO SEA MADE BY BANZER IN "ERCILLA" INTERVIEW /COPIES POUCHED LA PAZ AND ARA/BC). WE ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY HIS REPEATED (THREE TIMES) AND EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF BOLIVIAN GOAL OF SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER COASTAL ENCLAVE AND CONNECTING CORRIDOR TO BOLIVIA. WHILE THIS POSITION, OF COURSE, REPRESENTS NO CHANGE FROM LONG-STANDING GOB GOAL, WE DO NOT RECALL SUCH A FORCEFUL PRESENTATION BY A SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL APPEARING RECENTLY IN A CHILEAN PUBLICATION.

2. WE ARE FURTHER STRUCK BY BANZER'S EMPHASIS ON ACCEPTING FULL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE AT CHARANA, AND HIS COMMENT THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT PRODUCE RESULTS (ALTHOUGH HE REFUSED TO GIVE A DEADLINE) HE WOULD LEAVE THE PRESIDENCY ("WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?"). SEEN FROM SANTIAGO, BANZER SEEMS TO HAVE PUT HIS NAME AND CAREER SQUARELY ON THE LINE ON OUTLET TO THE SEA ISSUE. HE ALSO
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MAKES A VIELED WARNING THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL,

"UNDOUBTEDLY THERE WOULD BE A TOTALLY NEGATIVE REACTION --
WHICH WOULD BE VERY PREJUDICIAL FOR OUR PEOPLES."

3. FOR MIN CARVAJAL SEPTEMBER 24 REFUSED TO COMMENT ON INTERVIEW,
BUT HE DID TELL REPORTERS THAT HE PLANNED TO MEET IN NEW YORK
WITH GOB FOR MINISTER DURING CURRENT UNGA SESSION.

4. SENIOR FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO US THAT GOC RECENTLY
RECEIVED FROM GOB FIRST INDICATION OF GOB'S IDEAS ON PROBLEM,
IN FORM OF A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "BASES FOR NEGOTIATIONS."
ALTHOUGH GOC CANNOT ACCEPT DOCUMENT AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS,
THIS OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED THAT BOLIVIA HAS FINALLY PUT SOMETHING
CONCRETE ON THE TABLE AND THAT PROCESS OF NARROWING DIFFERENCES

CAN NOW BEGIN.
POPPER

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